



MetroWest Chess Club

Largest Chess Club in New England

Serving the MetroWest Boston chess community since 1983



This month:
MCC Holiday Cheer Swiss



 Bluetooth

Inside:

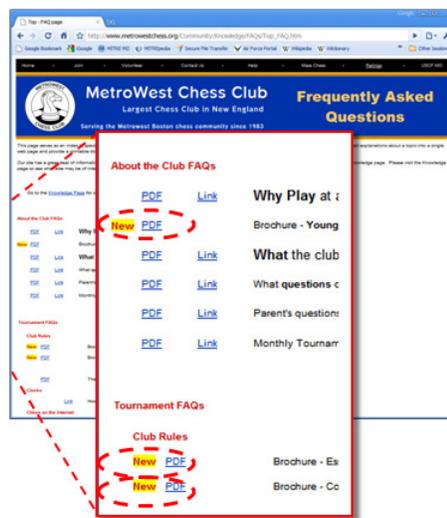
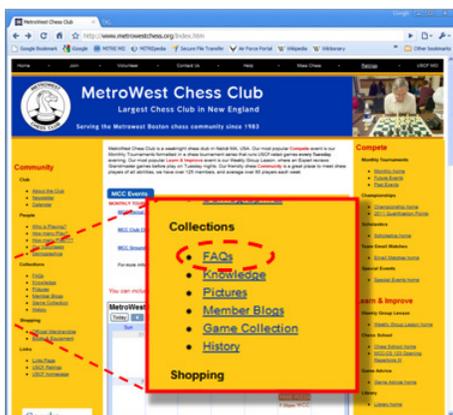
- **MCC's newest Master**
- **Senior Center Moving Jan 2011**
- **New tournament FORFEIT rule**
- **DGT Bluetooth Boards**



December 2010 Newsletter

COMMUNITY: Club Brochures

There are three brochures to help new and experienced MetroWest CC players fully enjoy the Club and its competitive events. From the MetroWest CC homepage, click on "FAQs" to bring you to the "Frequently Asked Questions" page. There you will find the three new brochures.



Each brochure is packaged as a PDF which can be printed as a single double-sided sheet and tri-folded. The three brochures are shown below with links to go directly to the PDFs.

MetroWest Chess Club
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Essential Information for MCC Players

Arrive early!
Onsite registration ends at
7:20 PM Sharp

Call to request a bye before
7:00 PM
on Tuesdays
508 - 788 - 3641

www.MetroWestChess.org
InfoRequest@MetroWestChess.org

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Common Tournament Rules to Know

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Young Players at the MCC

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[Essential Information](#)

[Common Rules](#)

[Young Players](#)

COMMUNITY: Club on Social Media

MetroWest Chess Club has a rich website and a growing presence in popular social media. The website is at: <http://www.metrowestchess.org>

The most important feature on the website is the Google calendar depicted below. MetroWest Chess club uses Google calendar, so you can add it to your personal Google Calendar and be reminded of Club events. Directly below the calendar is the Google blog. The Google Calendar and Blog are both updated periodically, so check during a tournament to see if there are any newsworthy items.

The screenshot shows the MetroWest Chess Club website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Join, Volunteer, Contact Us, Help, Mass Chess, Ratings, and USCF MO. The main header features the club's logo and the text "MetroWest Chess Club - Largest Chess Club in New England - Serving the Metrowest Boston chess community since 1983".

The "Community" section on the left includes links for Club (About the Club, Newsletter, Calendar), People (Who is Playing?, How many Players?, Our Volunteers, Demographics), Collections (FAQs, Knowledgebase, Rules, Member Blogs, Game Collection, History), Shopping (Official Merchandise, Books & Equipment), and Links (Links Page, USCF Ratings, USCF homepage).

The "MCC Events" section lists "MONTHLY TOURNAMENTS" with details for "MCC Memorial Swiss" (September 7, 14, 21, 28) and "MCC Hot Summer Swiss" (Finished). Below this is a "Social Media" box with icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, and RSS.

The "Calendar" section displays a Google Calendar for September 2010. The calendar shows events such as "7:30pm MCC", "6:30pm NCC", "EREC BIZ ZA", "70th NE Opn", "Labor Day", "7:30pm MCC", "6:30pm NCC T", "7:30pm WCC F", "7:30pm MCC", "6:30pm NCC T", "7:30pm WCC F", "7:30pm MCC", "6:30pm NCC T", "7:30pm WCC F", "7:30pm MCC", "6:30pm NCC T", "7:30pm WCC F".

Below the calendar is a "Blog" section with a "Subscribe in" link and the MetroWest Chess Club logo.

In addition to the Google calendar and Google blog, MetroWest Chess Club is growing a presence on social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Click the Social Media link on the homepage for more information.

COMMUNITY: Call for Volunteers

We are looking for **web coders** to join the MetroWest Chess Club web team!

We are interested in improving our website in many ways, including showcasing the “DGT Board” games we are starting to capture (see below in this newsletter).

If you are interested in volunteer on the web team, or in some other way, please speak to me at the club or send me an email.



Mark Kaprielian
President

COMMUNITY: Connecting with Past Members

Some of you may remember **Henry Blackwell**, who was a regular at the club way back when it was in Framingham. He has retired and is living in Savannah, GA. He wants to get back into chess and is looking for some email/postal opponents. His email address is **henry.blackwell AT bc.edu**.



Submitted by
Robert Huntington

COMMUNITY: MCC's Newest Master – Ben Goldberg

MCC's newest Master describes his chess journey in his own words



119th RI Open Chess
Nov 12, 2010



109th Pawn-Eater
Sept 18, 2010



MetroWest Chess Club
Nov 9, 2010

My Chess Ascent:

During My ascent to 2200 was far from a meteoric one. I began playing chess when I was 15 at the Newton North High School chess club. It may have been the only positive thing I had going for me in my wayward teenage years. My first tournament was in January of 1996. My chess journey culminated with my ultimate goal of becoming a National Master in November of 2010 at the age of 30.

In high school, I studied with FM Valery Frenklakh, and I initially gained skill quickly. He helped me to build my confidence, and showed me how badly some of my higher rated opponents played, often with humorous anecdotes. After my first year of tournament chess I was rated 1600, and I was 1800 by the end of my second year. Reaching roughly 1950 by the summer after I finished high school, I thought it would be easy to move up to 2000 or higher in a short period of time. This was not the case. I lost about 100 points in the matter of 2 tournaments, and ended up quitting chess for over 2 years. I played only one tournament in 1999, with a paltry result. (This would not be the last time I would “quit chess” over the years.)

I returned to chess in '01. I joined Jorge Sammour-Hasbun's club in Fall River, MA per the suggestion of Rafik, a Harvard Square blitz regular. At Jorge's club I took a new approach to chess. I had the realization that after reaching A Class it would take considerable effort to improve my level of play. I couldn't just show up to tournaments with the assumption that I was already over 2000 strength because I had beaten some experts in the past. “Playing up” sections made no sense at that point either. I think it's pointless for players to thrust themselves into a section considerably above their playing level. Many players do this with the idea that they can catch a higher rated player off guard with some trap, or that they can “bore them into a draw” with white, etc. Usually it's just a waste of time for both sides. The higher rated player feels like he's wasting his time and money playing someone they have nothing to gain anything from, and the lower rated player typically has a bad result with a ready-made excuse for their losses. If you're better than your section, PROVE IT by beating players of your own rating and taking the prize money and their rating points.

Through the past decade, after Jorge's club was closed down, my ascent was slow, with many peaks and valleys. I was an expert for 8 years before hitting 2200. There were so many times where I thought I was so close to pushing through that I could smell it, only to have my hopes shattered by a string of heartbreaking defeats. I had a great deal of help over the years from SM Jacob Rasin, an excellent chess coach and great storyteller in the Boston area. I learned a

tremendous amount of practical chess knowledge from him. I wasn't classically trained as a beginner, and unlike most players, I became proficient in the basic elements of positional play before I learned to be aggressive, methods of attack, and how to think tactically. Jacob spotted my weaknesses easily and was able to help me develop in the areas I needed to improve. If I lived in the Boston area, I'm sure I'd still be studying with him.

Though Valery, Jorge, and Jacob were all coaches who helped me by sharing their knowledge of the game, another great influence on me was Johnny "Jammer" Fields. He moved into my house as an upstairs tenant when I was 15, and happened to be a B Class chess player who loved dashing attacks and sacrifices. He was also a talented jazz harmonica player. He introduced me to the denizens of Au Bon Pain chess in Harvard Square of the mid-90's, and brought me to tournaments in my first year as a player. Though at the time I was a beginner who could scarcely hold my 3-digit provisional rating, he would invite me to come to his work in the evenings, where I could do homework and we would carry on long, untimed chess games (most of which I lost pitifully). His passing before the age of 40 in 1997 was heartbreak to everyone who knew him.

It was always my dream to "make master", even if only once, and one of the things that drove me to succeed over the years was the idea of how proud Johnny Fields would be of his protege, the FISH from downstairs. I once told Denys Shmelov that I would gladly give up one of my fingers to hit 2200, even to make it there just once. After that I wouldn't care what happened. He told me to keep my fingers. Thankfully, I made it to 2200 without any severed extremities.

Ben Goldberg
Nov 30, 2010

COMMUNITY: Natick Senior Center Moves

Natick Senior Center is moving!

Announcement from the Senior Center:

During the construction of Natick's new community senior center, the Senior Center and the club will be temporarily relocating to a new location for about 14 to 18 months

Our temporary quarters will be at the former East School at 90 Oak Street, Natick:

It is on the westbound side of Route 9 opposite Scrub-a-Dub carwash. The entrance is on Oak Street. It was most recently occupied by Westgate Christian Academy—some people may have known where that was. See map below.

Currently the schedule calls for the move to occur "the first of week of January":

The move will most likely take place over a weekend and we should have some notice prior to the move.

ROUND 1 January 2011 is cancelled

If we learn that the move is delayed, we may reinstate the first week and cancel the 2nd, etc. News about the move and any cancellations or reinstatements will be posted front and center on the website, and in the news/blog, and in the newsletters, and everyone should watch closely for any updates as the month approaches and before heading to the club in January. The event flyer and website has been updated to reflect this. Please note that the championship points have been adjusted as well.



COMPETE: Game Collection and DGT Boards

MetroWest Chess Club members have made two DGT Boards available for use at the Club in order to capture games of interest

DGT (Digital Game Technology) is a company that sells wood boards and pieces with sensors so that the chess game moves can be recorded. The Club is using the DGT boards with Bluetooth so we can collect the chess game moves wirelessly, and unobtrusively:

<http://digitalgametechnology.com/site/index.php/Electronic-Boards/dgt-bluetooth-wireless-e-board.html>



DGT Board from DGT website



Two laptops at Club collecting moves



DGT used in Foygel-Chamerlain, Rd 2 Nov 9, 2010

Currently we are displaying the games in an interactive game viewer, on the homepage, below the calendar.

We will periodically add the games to the club game collection.

In addition, we are seeking a web coder volunteer for the Club to enable this and other game related capabilities.

The screenshot shows the MetroWest Chess Club website. The main content area includes a 'MONTHLY TOURNAMENTS' section with a calendar for December 2010. A 'Featured' event is highlighted: 'MCC Thanksgiving Series, MetroWest Chess Club, Round 2'. Below this, a game viewer is displayed, showing a chessboard with pieces and player names: Winston Huang (2063) and John Chamberlain (2685). The game viewer is circled in red. The website also has a 'Community' sidebar with links like 'About the Club', 'Newsletter', and 'Calendar'. There are also sections for 'Compete', 'Learn & Improve', and 'Game Advice'.

COMPETE: Update to FORFEIT Rule

We have a new event rule that we want to make people aware of. Now appearing on our event flyer is the following:

Forfeit is 1 hour after round start. Players who are 30 minutes late may be repaired.

Forfeit has always been 1 hour; we are now explicitly stating the rule on the flyer.

The new part of the forfeit rule, is that when one or two players are likely to forfeit (TD uses his/her judgment) we may repair the two present players to play immediately and repair the two missing people to play. This lets the present people get a reasonably long game in instead of leaving after hanging out for an hour waiting for the forfeit.

We reserve the right to adjust the new rule, as we gain experience with its practical application in tournaments.



Mark Kaprielian
President

COMPETE: Results of Last Tournament

MCC Thanksgiving Swiss Results

Congratulations to the winners!

OPEN	Igor Foygel (4.5/5.0)
U2000	Ethan Thompson (4.5/5.0)
U1700	Robert Taussig (4.5/5.0)
U1400	Franklin Lu, Kenneth Brisbois, Harvey Reed (4.0/5.0)

Perfect Scores



Who will it be next month?



COMPETE: Next Tournament

MCC Holiday Cheer Swiss

When Tuesdays at 7:30 pm
December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2010

Format 4-SS, 40/90, SD/30

Sections Open, U2000, U1700, U1400

Prize Fund \$ 630 100% Guaranteed

Entry Fee

Masters	Free
MCC Members	\$20
Non-members	\$25

Prizes

Open	\$ 120 – 80 – 60
U2000	\$ 80 – 60 – 40
U1700	\$ 60 – 40 – 20
U1400	\$ 40 – 20 – 10

Championship Points

Open	64 – 40 – 24 – 16
U2000	32 – 20 – 12
U1700	16 – 10 – 6

25% bonus for winning all games

15 point bonus for upset win/draw over an 1800+ player and 300/600 rating diff

Checkout the [Possible Events of Interest](#) link on the Club homepage for other events in the area,

Bookseller and Weekly Group Lessons

Emanuel Rasin of "Books from Europe"



Weekly Group Lessons



The current championship qualification standings are available online at:

http://www.metrowestchess.org/Compete/Championships/2011/2011_Championship_Qualification_Points_List.pdf